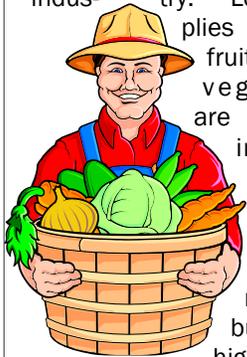


Nunes continues to push on important issues

Agriculture

Specialty Crops

Congressman Nunes recognizes the value of the United States specialty crop industry. Local supplies of fresh



fruits and vegetables are not only important to our nation's nutritional needs but are highly valuable economic commodities around the world. In an effort to increase consumer education and awareness, improve access to foreign markets, and improve food safety, Mr. Nunes became an original co-sponsor of the Specialty Crop Competitiveness Act of 2003. The new legislation will provide additional financial resources to farmers, scientists and educators to address these key points.

Labor

In order to provide a more stable, secure, safe and legal American agriculture work force and food supply Congressman Nunes has cosponsored H.R. 3142, the Agricultural Jobs, Opportunity, Benefits, and Security Act (AgJOBS). This newly revised, historically bipartisan, farm worker reform legislation builds upon years of discussion and ideas between Congress, agricultural producers, farm worker advocates, Latinos and others. The AgJOBS bill would provide a two step solution to many of the problems involved with agricultural la-

bor. For the short term, on a one-time basis, experienced, trusted workers with a significant work history in American agriculture would be allowed to stay here legally and earn adjustment to legal status by working a set number of hours within a certain time frame. For the long term, the currently broken and cumbersome H-2A legal guest worker program would be overhauled and made more streamlined, practical and secure. Congressman Nunes believes that this bill is a balanced, practical, and achievable approach to resolving current problems and preventing a growing crisis that threatens American agriculture, workers, and consumers.

Armenia



In a continued effort to assist economic development in Armenia, Rep. Nunes sent a letter to the Foreign Operations Appropriation Committee Conferees urging them to include in the Committee Report on the FY2004 Foreign Operations Appropriations bill language supporting the development of a Central Diagnostic Laboratory in Armenia. This language was contained in the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill passed by the House of Representatives at the request of Rep. Nunes.

This language will assist Fresno based Armenian Technology Group, Inc. to establish and develop a Central Diagnostic Laboratory in the Caucasus region, to address the public safety - including health and food safety - needs of the region for the early detection of indigenous and transboundary zoonotic diseases - such as Anthrax, Mad-Cow, Foot & Mouth, Brucellosis, and related diseases.

Appropriations

The following is a list of Fiscal Year 2004 Appropriations requests made by Rep. Nunes which were included in the House of Representatives Appropriations bills (waiting on Senate action).

The following is a partial list:

Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury, Postal, and General Government

\$4 million to build a 31,500 square foot Bus Maintenance Facility in Visalia

\$20 million increase for the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) High Intensity Drug Traffic Area (HITDA) program - to include an increase in funding for the Central Valley HITDA

\$4 million for Fresno Area Express (FAX) to purchase clean fuel buses

Community Medical Centers - Funding made